

The State of New Hampshire

Department of Environmental Services

Michael P. Nolin Commissioner

Mr. Walter Elander Owls Nest Golf Club PO Box 470 Campton, New Hampshire 03223 1116 TO 1116 T

LETTER OF DEFICIENCY WMB PBF 04-11 August 6, 2004

Dear Mr. Elander:

The Department of Environmental Services, Water Division ("DES") is required by RSA 485-A:26 to operate a program to ensure the health and safety of the public when using public bathing facilities such as pools and spas. To implement this program, DES has adopted administrative rules Env-Ws 1101-1105 to specify the design, operation, and maintenance requirements for public bathing facilities. DES reviews applications for new public bathing facilities and also inspects and tests the water in existing public bathing facilities to ensure that applicable requirements are being met.

On August 2, 2004, DES inspected the pool at the Owls Nest Golf Club in Campton, NH ("the Pool"). During this inspection, the following deficiencies were noted:

- 1. Env-Ws 1103.15(c) requires a free residual chlorine concentration between 1.0 mg/L and 3.0 mg/L in public pool water. The free chlorine residual of the Pool water ranged from 0.1 to 0.13 mg/L on August 2, 2004.
- 2. Env-Ws 1104.01 requires the operator to test public bathing facility water for disinfectant residual, pH, and temperature prior to use of a public bathing facility and every 4 hours during operation, to record test results on a dated daily log sheet, and to maintain operational records for the previous twelve months and make these records available to DES and patrons of the public bathing facility upon request. The written records were inconsistent at the time of the inspection relative to the required testing of the Pool water.
- 3. Env-Ws 1104.04(a) requires the following safety devices to be present at all public pools: (1) a light, strong pole not less than 12 feet long, including a body hook, and (2) a minimum one-fourth inch diameter throwing rope as long as one and one-half times the maximum width of the pool or 50 feet, whichever is less, to which has been firmly attached a ring buoy with an outside diameter of approximately 15 inches or a similar flotation device. A rope was not attached to the ring buoy at the Pool at the time of inspection.
- 4. Env-Ws 1105.01(j) requires a rope with attached floats a ("breakpoint safety line") to be placed across public pools over the break in depth between the shallow and deep portions of the pool. A breakpoint safety line was not present in the Pool at the time of the inspection.
- 5. Pursuant to Env-Ws 1104.03(b), the operator shall be responsible for posting conspicuously displayed signs informing patrons of the DES rules relative to patron responsibilities (enclosed copy) and any other safety rules developed by the bathing facility management. Patron rules were not posted at the Pool at the time of the inspection.
- 6. Env-Ws 1104.03(e)(1) states that the depth of water in feet shall be plainly and conspicuously marked at or above the water line on the vertical pool wall and on the top of the coping or edge of the deck or walk next to the pool. The depth of the Pool was not marked on the pool deck.
- 7. Pursuant to Env-Ws 1103.14(d), pumps, filters, disinfectant feeders, flow indicators, gauges, and all related components of the recirculation system shall be kept in operation for the duration of one turnover time (i.e., the passage of a facility's volume of water through the recirculation system once) prior to and consistently during use of a public bathing facility. The pump and filter for the Pool were not in operation at the time of inspection.

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DES believes the cited deficiencies can be corrected prior to summer season 2005. A report outlining how compliance will be achieved with the cited deficiencies should be submitted to DES within 30 calendar days from receipt of this letter. The report should include the following:

- 1. A copy of two weeks of water quality test results for all facilities (please do not send originals).
- 2. A timetable of when:

cc:

- a. the safety items will be in place;
- b. the depth will be marked;
- c. patron rules will be posted;

DES personnel will conduct another inspection at a later date to determine whether you have come into, and are maintaining, full compliance with RSA 485-A:26 and Env-Ws 1101-1105. In the event that compliance is not achieved, DES may take further action, including seeking an administrative fine up to \$2,000 for each offense or referring the case to the NH Attorney General's Office for judicial action.

We appreciate your cooperation in this matter. Please contact Carrie Boudreau at (603) 271-7108 if you have any questions regarding this letter. Copies of Env-Ws 1101-1105 are available through the DES Public Information Center at (603) 271-2975 or via the Internet at http://www.des.state.nh.us/pools/env1100.pdf.

Jody Connor Limnology Center Director

Gretchen R. Hamel, Legal Unit Administrator, DES Carrie Boudreau, Public Bathing Facility Inspector, DES James McGarr, Health Officer, Town of Campton

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